

## JAPAN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE BOX

- ED.1972.364 a,b Pair of commercially printed place cards showing a geisha riding in a rickshaw with parasols that open and close. These were made in the early 1900s, probably around 1930 and brought to the U.S. by one of the missionaries who retired to Pilgrim Place.
- ED.1978.1.2 a Carved and painted wood figurine of a farm woman in traditional dress. Rural agricultural workers still wear these practical clothes when working in the rice paddies (flooded fields). In historic times, fancy silk kimono were not worn by farmers but were reserved for the elite, usually urban, social classes.
- ED.1979.25.30 Rigid, ovoid fan of orange lacquered paper pasted over palm ribs. Historically this type of fan was used only by women. Today, most fans used in Japan are made in China!
- ED.1985.2.75 Stiff folding fan of the type used by actors in Kabuki or Noh dramas, especially during dances in these plays. The paper is hand made of rice straw and the gold design is spattered across it before gluing it to the bamboo sticks.
- ED.1991.21.5 Box with silk cocoons and samples of raw (un degummed) and processed silk threads and fabric. There is a small information pamphlet inside about silk and its cultivation. Japan is famous for its lovely silk textiles.
- ED.1996.16.1 a,b Ceramic dolls representing a Heian era (794-1185 A.D.) emperor and empress of Japan. Dolls such as these are traditionally displayed in the home on Girl's Day which is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month (i.e. March 3<sup>rd</sup>).
- ED.1996.18.46 Stoneware tea bowl decorated in the rustic-looking "hare's fur" mottled brown glaze style known as "temmoku". Simply decorated dishes such as these were highly prized by Zen tea masters for use in the tea ceremony.
- ED.1996.20.1 a,b Two cards with illustrations of figures from Noh dramas. Both wear masks for their parts. In the Noh drama, female parts are acted by men as shown in figure (a) here. Figure (b) shows a male role. Many of the plays are based on famous incidents in Japanese history and myth.
- ED.2004.1.5 Silk shibori (tie dyed) sash used to close a kimono robe.
- ED.2004.3.156 a,b Remnants of silk (a) and cotton (b) kimono fabric. The silk is a commercially printed fabric and the cotton is a resist stenciled fabric. Both are woven in the narrow (approximately 13-14" wide) fabric preferred for making kimono robes.
- Ed.2004.3.157 Furoshiki (gift wrapping cloth) of printed crepe fabric (possibly a synthetic fiber) with a pine branch design. (see #2005.1.6 through #2005.1.11 below).
- ED.2004.14.1 Small scale model of a farmer or rural worker's three piece rain outfit made of rice straw. It consists of a cape (mino), hat (kasa) and a pair of sandals (waraji). Similar types of rain gear are found through out China and Japan, though they have been largely replaced by modern synthetic raincoats and ponchos today.
- ED.2005.1.6 Furoshiki (cloth used for gift wrapping) of printed cotton cloth. Unlike western gift wrapping paper that is used once and thrown away, furoshiki were intended to be recycled by the recipient of the gift it wrapped and used for another time with another gift. Thus one might pass through many hands as gifts were given throughout the year.
- ED.2005.1.7 Furoshiki of polyester fabric printed with cranes and a landscape. Cranes are symbols of good luck in Japan, so they symbolize the giver's wish of good fortune for the recipient of the gift this furoshiki once wrapped.

- ED.2005.1.8 Furoshiki of a novelty weave polyester fabric printed with a landscape of pines, hills and pagodas (shrines or temples).
- ED.2005.1.9 Furoshiki of discharge printed polyester fabric with metallic pigment overprinted in a design of floral sprays.
- ED.2005.1.10 Furoshiki of polyester fabric. The background is space-dyed (or warp-printed) fabric with a spray of flowers printed in one corner.
- ED.2005.1.11 Furoshiki of blotch printed rayon fabric with chrysanthemum designs. Chrysanthemums are considered symbolic of autumn by the Japanese and this was most likely used to wrap a gift that was given in the Fall of the year.
- ED.2005.1.16 Lid for a rice bowl or tea cup made of Imari style porcelain. The decorative floral designs of Imari ware are world famous and have been enthusiastically collected for the last 200-300 years. Porcelain is a high-fired ceramic. If you gently flick your fingernail at the rim, you will hear the high ringing sound associated with fine porcelain (the lower the firing temperature, the lower the ringing sound made by the ceramic).
- ED.2005.1.78 Hand carved wood figurine of a laughing, pot-bellied bald man. This figure is one of the seven lucky gods of Japan and represents contentment or prosperity (his big belly means he has plenty to eat!). These gods are frequently portrayed in Japanese art, usually in a light-hearted manner. On New Year's Eve the seven gods travel together on board their treasure ship and enter port accompanied by the crane and the tortoise, both symbols of longevity. Some say that just rubbing Hotei's big belly brings good luck!
- ED.2005.1.96 a-p Set of hand painted, black and gold lacquerware dishes for a Girl's Day doll display (see #1996.16.1 a,b).
- ED.2005.1.117 Silk sash made by shibori (tie dyed) method of surface design. Note the small dots of lighter material that were "reserved" from the dye by tying off the area with cotton thread.
- ED.2005.1.141 Fabric collage picture of a young woman, probably a geisha or professional entertainer, playing a "fue" (transverse flute).
- ED.2005.1.144 Hand painted hanging scroll with a scene of horses grazing in front of Mt. Fuji (see #2006.1.169 a-i). This piece of art is probably from around 1900 and would have been painted most likely by an intellectual man who prided himself on his calligraphy skills. The "paint" used here is sumi (ink made from soot) which is the same ink used for writing in Japan, China and Korea (see #2005.58.3)
- ED.2005.1.151 A long panel of silk crepe meant to be hung by the attached frogs (knotted loops) for display. It is made from fabric panels for two different kimono robes. On one side, sumi (ink) is hand painted to create a scene showing boats on water with mountains in the background. On the other side, is a large stenciled pawlonia flower family or clan crest and a painted headdress with embroidered details.
- ED.2005.1.153 A narrow silk obi (sash) of the kind used for informal, unlined summer kimono. This one has a geometric pattern woven with supplemental warp threads in a rib weave.
- ED.2005.1.175 Long, hanging scroll with a wood block print of a geisha (female musical entertainer) wearing an elaborate headdress of wooden hair pins. This type of "pin-up" portrait was very popular for the last two hundred years in Japan. Many geisha were very famous entertainers, similar to our rock stars of today, and people often wanted to have their portraits decorate their homes. Even today, geisha dress in traditional historic clothes, rather than the more modern western-style clothing, to perform.
- ED.2005.1.176 Geisha (female musical entertainer) doll in formal kimono with long, trailing

- sleeves (furosode) and elaborate wisteria design hairpins. The red color used in her garments would have been considered appropriate only for wear by young women. Geisha are performance specialists that sing, dance, play music, recite poetry, etc. and are hired to entertain private parties. Today, they are one of the few groups of women who wear traditional kimono dress daily. For most people, this type of clothing is only worn on special occasions such as weddings or other important events.
- ED.2005.1.196 a-d Four folded paper (origami) cranes. This is one of the most popular figures in the Japanese art of paper folding and groups of cranes are often folded and strung together in a prayer for peace.
- ED.2005.1.199 Carved and painted wood figure of a man in traditional dress of hakama (culottes), kimono, haori (jacket), tabi (socks with split toes) and zori (thronged shoes).
- ED.2005.1.202 a,b Carved and painted wooden souvenir figures. The horse figurine is called a Maharu-goma and is typical of souvenirs sold at roadside stands or Shinto shrines to holiday visitors. The human-like figure is a Mayoke doll and is displayed in houses to scare away evil spirits, robbers, and other unwanted characters. It too would be sold at a small stand for tourists and travelers for regional souvenirs.
- ED.2005.1.258 a,b Remnants of stenciled, resist dyed cotton fabric of the sort used for unlined summer kimono called yukata. The floral and butterfly patterns are colored by indigo blue dye which enjoyed wide popularity in Japan.
- ED.2005.1.267 A pre-fab formal obi (sash) bow of silk and gold metallic threads woven in a pattern of temari balls. In modern times, formal kimono wear is reserved for special occasions and not everyday wear, so fewer people in Japan are familiar these days with the intricate knot-tying skills required to make the obi bows. The advent of separate, pre-tied bows that can be pinned, hooked or snapped onto a longer, straight obi has helped overcome this problem.
- ED.2005.1.280 A commercial reproduction, probably a page from a book, of a painting of a boy playing a flute while sitting in a tree and viewing Mt. Fuji. The original is by the famous artist Hokusai (1760-1849) who is well-known in the west for his woodblock prints and who was a favorite of the Dutch artist Van Gogh.
- ED.2005.1.302 a,b Pair of folding fans made with printed paper glued to carved wood sticks. In the 1800s and earlier, folding fans were used only by men (women traditionally used rigid, non-folding fans). Today both sexes use them to keep cool in the hot, humid summers of Japan and they are a favorite souvenir and gift item to give to friends. Historically, famous poets and artists were known to decorate this type of fan with hand painted scenes and poems as gifts for their friends.
- ED.2005.1.362 Decorative silk thread ball (temari) made by winding different colored silk threads over a spherical base. Wrapping these balls is a popular craft and books have been written on how to achieve different patterns with the wrapping. These are popular ornaments often used today to decorate Christmas trees by Christians who celebrate that holiday.
- ED.2005.1.378 a,b Two remnants of commercially printed silk Jacquard weave fabrics typically used for making kimono (long robes). Notice how narrow the width is from selvedge to selvedge edge. Unlike fabrics in the U.S. that usually come in widths of 42" or wider, fabric sold for kimono are often woven only 13-14" wide.
- ED.2005.2.104 Wind-sock style printed paper kite in the shape of a carp fish. Kites such as these are traditionally flown in front of houses that have sons on Boys' Day (Tango-no

- Sekku) on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the 5<sup>th</sup> month (i.e. May 5<sup>th</sup>). Carps are said to represent wishes for the boys to grow strong like the carp that swims upstream against the strong river current.
- ED.2005.3.18 UNICEF cardstock figure of a boy in traditional dress of hakama (culottes), kimono, haori (jacket), tabi (split-toed socks), and zori (thong sandals). This type of dress is typically reserved for formal or ceremonial occasions today in Japan.
- ED.2005.4.10 a-c Set of figurines in Heian era (794-1185 A.D.) costumes. This set of carved and painted wood figures includes two women and a man in dress of the upper classes of that era. Today, this type of clothing is reserved for historic dramas or can be seen being worn at royal weddings.
- ED.2005.58.3 Sumi (ink) block in its box. This traditional black ink is made from a mixture of soot and to use it, you must grind it on a stone and add water. It is used with a paint brush to “write” Japanese characters (words) or paint pictures. In Japan, writing and painting are inseparable ideas, unlike in the west, where we consider these as two very different forms of activities.
- ED.2005.58.4 a,b Pair of kokeshi dolls (see #2006.4.1 a,b) of painted and lathe-turned wood.
- ED.2006.1.83 a,b Pair of miniature or doll-sized wooden geta (platform clogs) historically worn by both sexes in Japan. (see #2006.9.20 a,b)
- ED.2006.1.182 A woodblock print reproduction of a work by the famous artist Harunobu who lived between 1724-1770. The scene takes place at New Year’s, we can tell by the fact that the young woman is playing hagoita, a form of badminton traditionally played for good luck at New Year’s. A young man is climbing a ladder to help retrieve the shuttlecock for the young woman who has accidentally gotten it caught in a nearby plum tree.
- ED.2006.1.269 a-i Nine modern reproductions from a very popular series of wood block prints called “36 Views of Mt. Fuji” by Hiroshige (one of the most famous Japanese print artists of the 1800s). The series was the last work by this artist and was first printed in 1858. Mt. Fuji (or Fujiyama, as it is called in Japan) is the most famous mountain in Japan and its silhouette is known world-wide. It was considered sacred by the early Japanese and has been the subject of countless pieces of artwork through the centuries.
- ED.2006.4.1 a,b Pair of Kokeshi dolls of painted, lathe-turned wood. This simple style of doll with no arms or legs was first made in the Tokhoku region in the northeast of the island of Honshu where there are many hot springs. They were made as souvenirs for purchase by visitors to the hot spring spas. Today there are several styles made throughout Japan, but all recognizable by their similar tubular shape.
- ED.2006.9.20 a,b Pair of wooden geta or clog platform shoes. This style could be worn by either a man or a woman. Traditionally they were only made in one size per style and if the wearer’s feet were longer than the platform, the heel would hang over the back..
- ED.2006.9.29 Woman’s unlined summer cotton robe called a “yukata”. The floral design has been created on the fabric by a technique of resist dyeing and painting. Before the widespread use of western-style terrycloth towels, yukata were used to dry the body after the bath. Both men and women wear them (though the patterns on men’s yukata are usually geometric as opposed to floral designs on the women’s).
- ED.2006.35.19 a-d Pair of lacquered rice bowls with lids decorated with bamboo motifs. This type of eating dish is still used in modern Japanese homes and restaurants. The bamboo motif is symbolic of overcoming adversity as the bamboo bends in a strong storm but

does not break.

ED.2006.1.379 Tea whisk for use in the Japanese tea ceremony. This utensil was carved from a single piece of bamboo and the resulting pieces were steamed and bent into shape. The tea ceremony is a traditional practice with both Zen Buddhist and Shinto influences. The whisk is in a protective plastic case as it is fragile.

ED.2006.9.46 A laminated map of Japan from the National Geographic Society.

ED.2006.39.2 A fragment of a obi age, a sash normally tucked underneath the wider, stiffer obi worn with the traditional kimono by women. This fragment was first woven into a floral and lattice pattern and then painstakingly tie dyed (a technique called “shibori” in Japan) in the repeating floral pattern on the surface. This type of minute tie-dyeing leaves permanent wrinkles on the surface of the fabric and is a very time consuming process.